

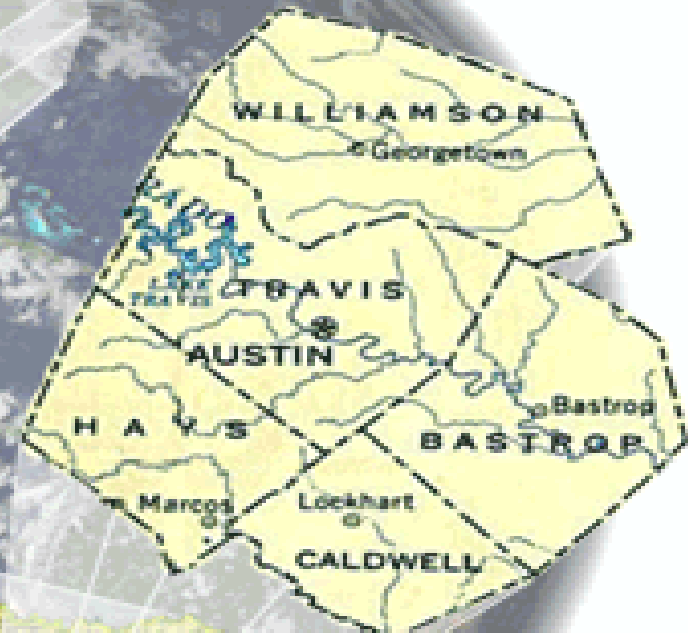
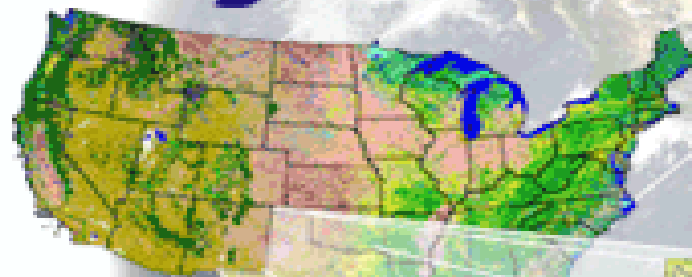


The Central Texas Sustainability Indicators Project: History, Practice and Prospects

Dr. Bob Paterson

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Associate Dean for Research, The School of Architecture and Planning, UT-Austin

Sustainability Indicators Project



of Central Texas
Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays,
Travis, and Williamson Counties

Overview

- What led up to the SIP?
- How did we do it?
- How were stakeholders engaged?
- Lessons Learned? Problems and opportunities?
- What Impacts can be associated with the effort?
- Next Steps – Linking SIP to Envision Central Texas and Becoming More Relevant...



What led up to the CenTex SIP?



Mounting Regional Concern and Calls for Action: But Always on Parallel Tracks

- **1990 Green Builder Program (COA)**
- **1990 AIA R/UDAT (Austin AIA/DAA)**
- **1992 UNEP Earth Summit Award**
- **1994 Portland-Austin Teleconference**
 - **Urban Consortium (UT-PST – Cities)**
- **1995 Community Vision Project**
 - **Capital Metro, UT-CRP, COA**
- **ULI Strategic Choices Conference (1995)**
- **22 County Regional Conference I-35 Corridor Council (1998) Austin-San Ant.**



Significant Events

- 1996 COA Sustainability Officer
- 1998 GAC's ICF Kaiser Report on Austin's Economic Future
 - **Sustainable Community Development**
 - **INCOME AND OPPORTUNITY GAPS MUST BE CLOSED**
 - **PROTECT AND ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL CAPITAL AND AMENITIES**

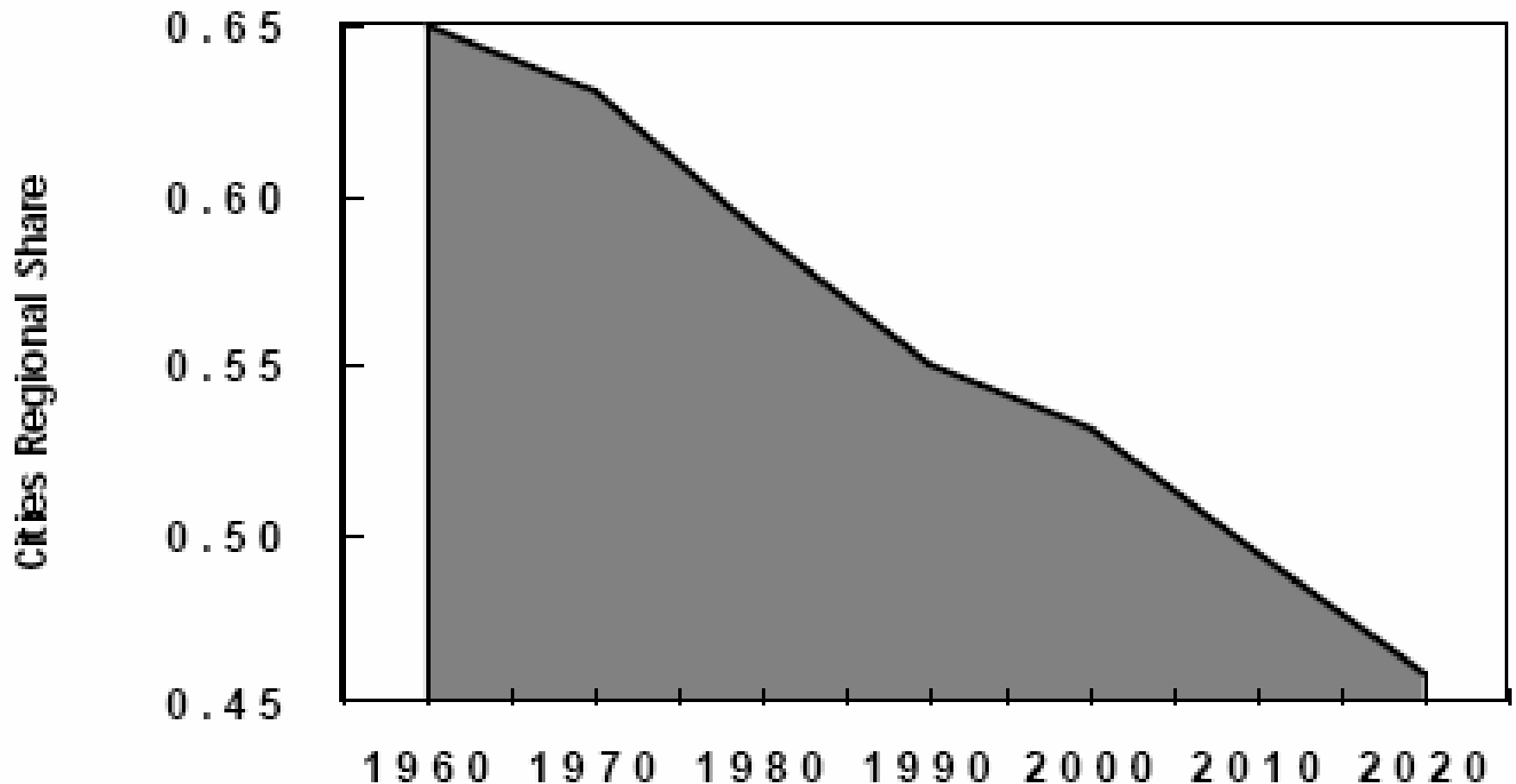


A Tale of Two Futures

**Building a
Sustainable
Community**

Central City Decline....

City's Share of the Region



Population Density and Urban Sprawl

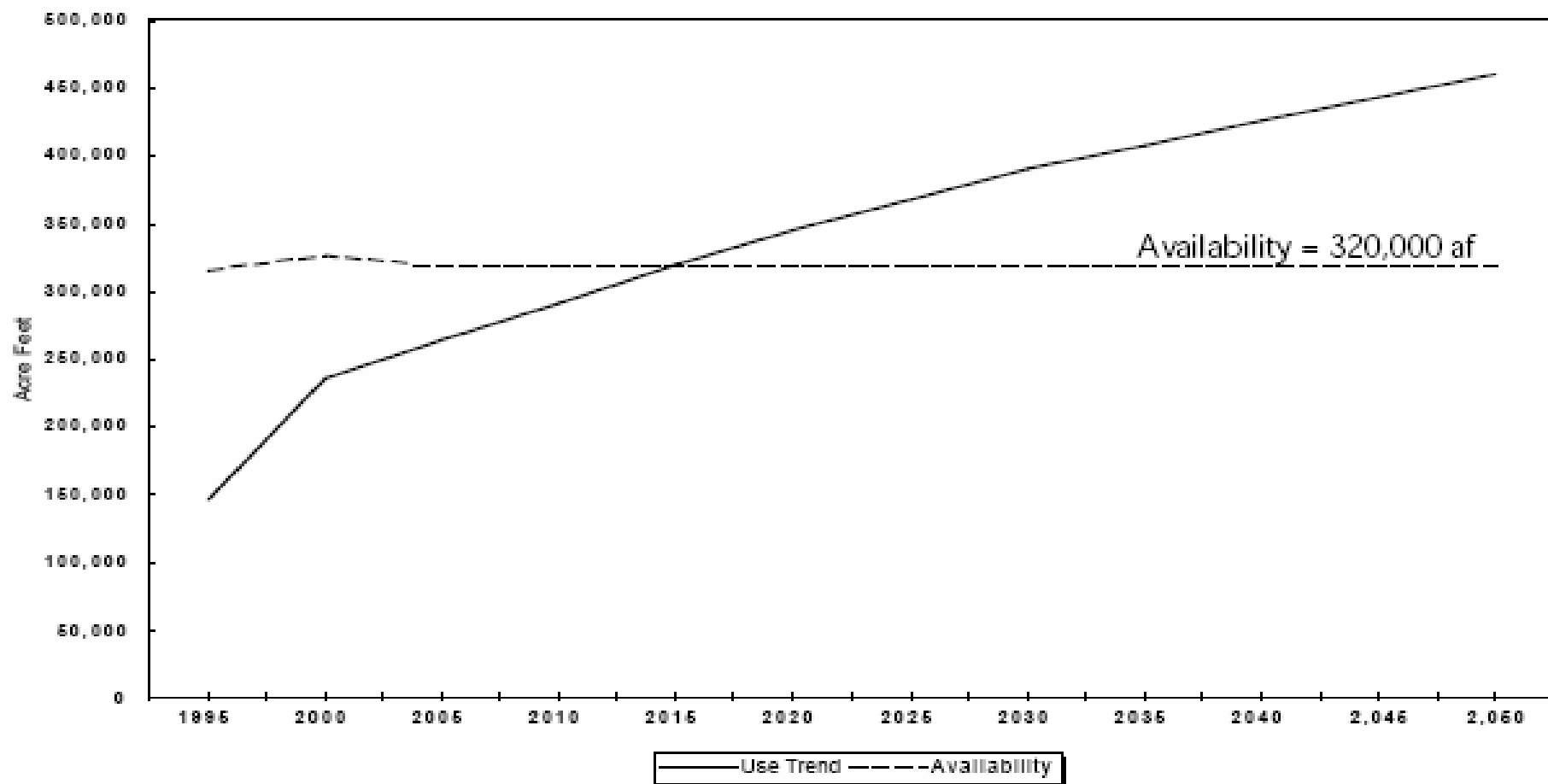
Data Table

Year	Urbanized Population	Square Miles	Persons per Square Mile	Percent Change
1900	26,866	17.2	1,561.9	
1910	36,041	17.4	2,071.3	32.6%
1920	42,096	17.8	2,364.9	14.2%
1930	64,116	24.6	2,602.6	10.1%
1940	106,132	37.2	2,850.2	9.5%
1950	159,879	45.7	3,495.2	22.6%
1960	225,161	67.4	3,343.1	-4.4%
1970	303,933	98.2	3,093.8	-7.5%
1980	417,491	153.7	2,715.6	-12.2%
1990	562,008	280.1	2,006.5	-26.1%

SOURCE: US Census Bureau and The Demographics and Forecasting Group, City of Austin.

ATS Study Area Forecast Water Use and Availability

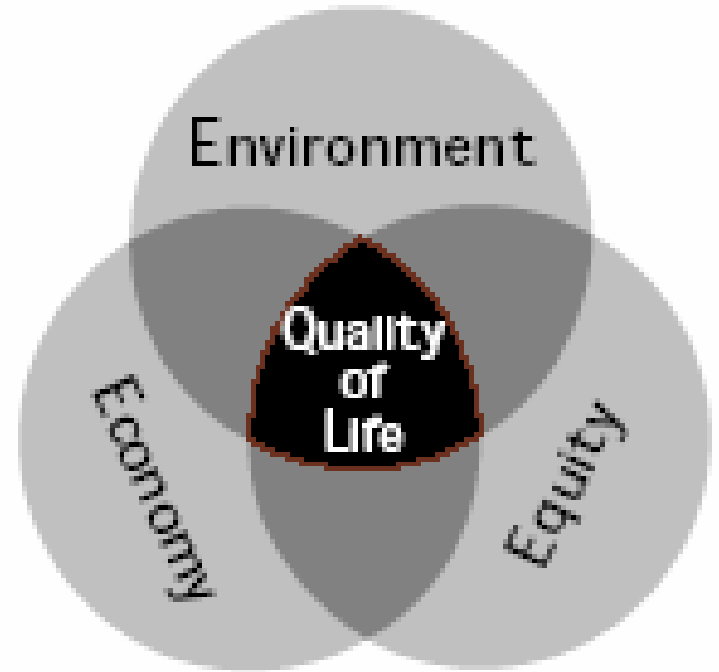
Chart 1



KEY CONCLUSION:
Central Texas Problems
are regional in nature
and interdependent

SOLUTION:
Sustainable
Communities Initiative

- **Education**
- **Collaboration**
- **Innovation**



Sustainability
requires regional
cooperation

Barriers to Regional Collaboration

- Political fragmentation
- Lack of continuity in dialogue – fits and starts
- Lack of safe harbor for diverse voices to engage each other constructively
- Fear of regional government
- Inability to recognize shared concerns and interdependence of lasting solutions
- Lack of resources and authority





SIP PROCESS IN BRIEF

1996 - 2004

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

1. Help the community see where opportunity is calling;
2. Engage committed people to advance these issues in positive directions;
3. Stimulate the inclusion of diverse opinions concerning how we should move forward; and
4. Serve as a reminder of the interdependence of the economy, the environment, and social equity when we make important community decisions for present and future generations

December 1996 – Founders Decision – Roger Duncan, PCESD COA, Dr. Bob Paterson UT-Austin, Dr. Patricia Hays (VP Seton Health Network) -- 2 YR COMMITMENT

- 1. Funding (Roger-COA)***
- 2. Technical Support (Bob-UT Austin)***
- 3. Networking Champion (Pat-Seton)***

1997 – Board and Community Education Effort

Training Session w/EPA contracted SI consultant Maureen Hart.

3 Major Conferences, Professional Training and Speaker Series to raise the dialogue on Sustainability...



Selecting Indicators

- Selection Criteria Considered:
 - **Maclaren's 8 sustainability indicators traits**
 - **US Interagency Working Group on Sustainable Development Indicators**
 - **Bellagio Principles**
 - **Hart Data Systems Checklist**
 - **Natural Step Four System Conditions**



Local Sustainability Innovators

- Feb 28th Thompson Conference Center
 - **City of Tucson Sustainable Communities Program**
 - **City of Santa Monica Sustainable City Program**
 - **Chattanooga Institute for Sustainability**
 - **National Smart Growth Network**
 - **Interactive Regional Panel on Sustainability for Central Texas**



Design and Planning Professions

- Planning Tools for Sustainability Professional Development Program
 - Polestar – Tellus Institute
 - Index – Criterion Inc.
 - Ecological Footprint Analysis -- Richardson
 - Smart Places GIS -- CIESIN



Winter/Spring 1998 - Initial Advisory Board

2/3rds of 50 person Advisory Board from Travis County

1/3rd each from Williamson and Hays counties

1/3rd members representing each of “the three Es”—sought representation from diverse ethnic, age, and interest groups

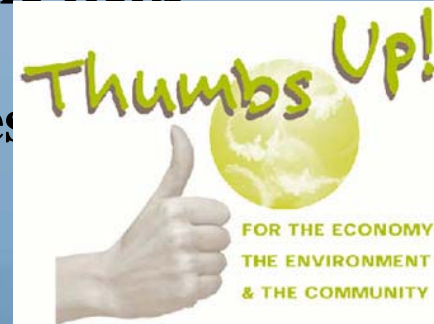
Summer 1998 - Advisory Board Meetings

Created a smaller Executive Committee.

More training and dialogue on lessons from the field

Preliminary work plan and schedule

Preliminary Mission Statement and Objectives



Winter/Spring 1999 - Community Outreach

Community input survey priority issues (Austin American-Statesman and separately distributed in Spanish language press).

**Statistical Sample and Access Survey
Advisory Board Fans Out – Workshops.**

June 1999 - Indicators Selection Forum

80 Community leaders from the entire region and the three Es participate in the process of selecting the potential list of final issues for indicator

Identify: IDEAL STATE and POSSIBLE MEASURES

Evaluate: accurate, timely, understandable and cost efficient

Summer – Fall 1999 - Revision of Initial Indicators

Winter 2000 - Data Collection

March 2000 - First Sustainability Indicators Project

The first SIP Report was published and distributed.



Cross Section of SIP Measures

Our Community/Our Children

Community Safety	12
Safe Families	14
Equity in Law Enforcement	15
English Literacy	16
Equity in Access to Capital	17
Academic Performance	18
<i>Percent Passing 2001 TAAS</i>	19
School Quality	20
Equity in Education	21
Diversity in Elected Leadership	22
Participation in the Arts	23
Philanthropy and Volunteerism	24
Access to Child Care	25
Quality of Child Care	26
<i>Child Care - Licensed and Accredited</i>	27
Civic Engagement	28
<i>Percent Voter Turnout</i>	29
Neighborliness	30

Our Workforce/Our Economy

Affordable Housing, Houses	32
<i>Number of Affordable Homes Available</i> ...	33
Affordable Housing, Apartments	34
Household Income	35

Our Workforce/Our Economy *cont.*

Diversity of Industries	42
Diversity of Employers	43
Technological Innovation	44

Our Health/Our Environment

Individual Health Status	46
Physical and Mental Health	47
Health Insurance Coverage	48
Air Quality	49
Hazardous Materials	50
Solid Waste	51
Water Consumption	52
Water Quality	53
Energy Use	54

Our Land/Our Infrastructure

Attractiveness of the Landscape	56
Density of New Development	57
Rural Land	58
<i>Change in Rural Acreage</i>	59
Publicly-Owned Open Space	60
<i>Publicly-Owned Open Space</i>	61
Vehicle Miles Traveled	62
Time Spent Commuting	63

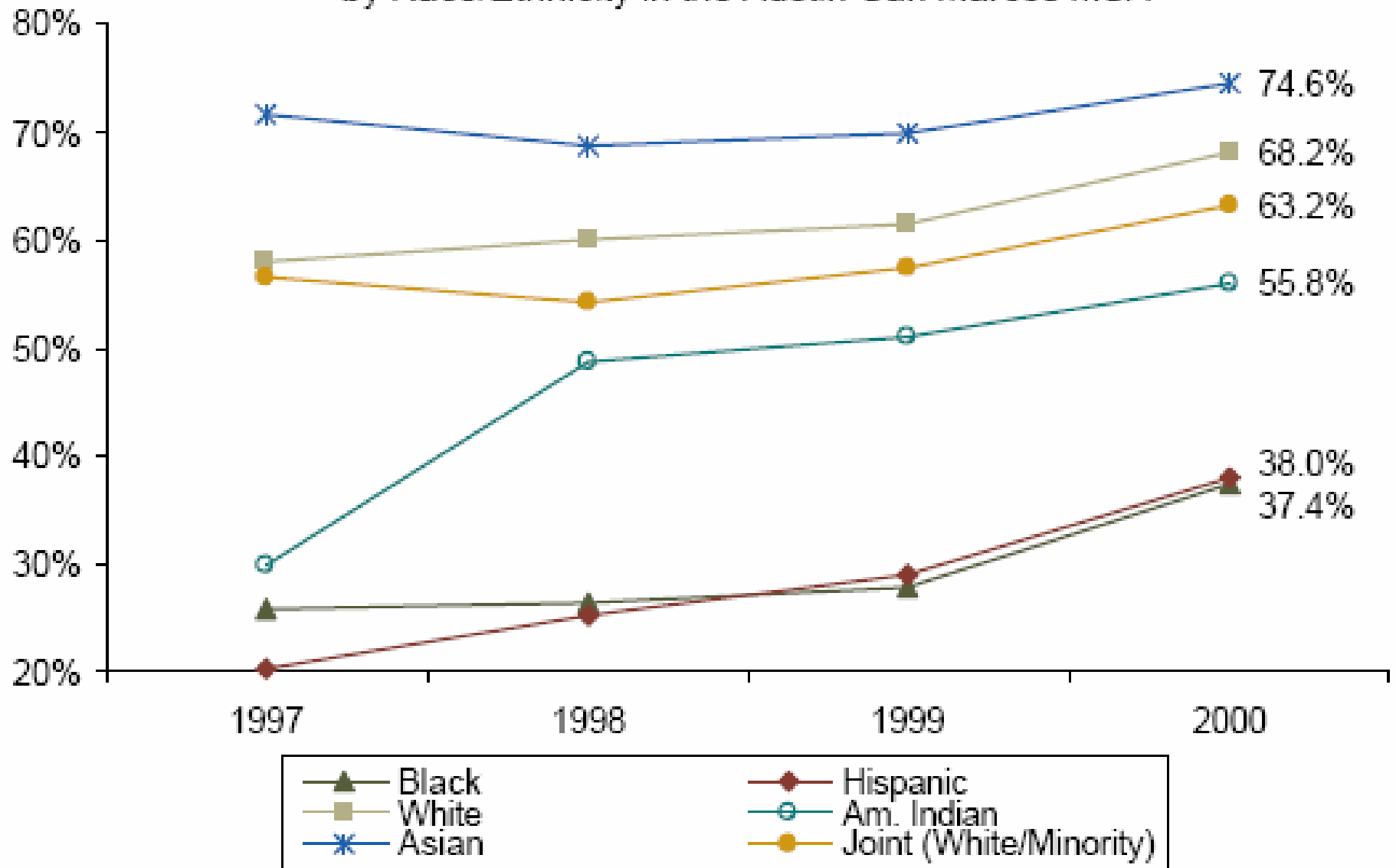
SOCIAL EQUITY INDICATORS

Home Loan Capital

- Current State
 - *Home loan approval rates for African-Americans and Hispanics are significantly lower than for other ethnicities.*
- Ideal State
 - All Central Texans have equal access to justice, education, and economic advancement without regard to race/ethnicity.



Successful Originations of Conventional Home Loans - by Race/Ethnicity in the Austin-San Marcos MSA



While access to home loan capital is increasing for all racial and ethnic groups, there remains a significant disparity among particular racial groups, some of which might correspond to disparity in income levels.

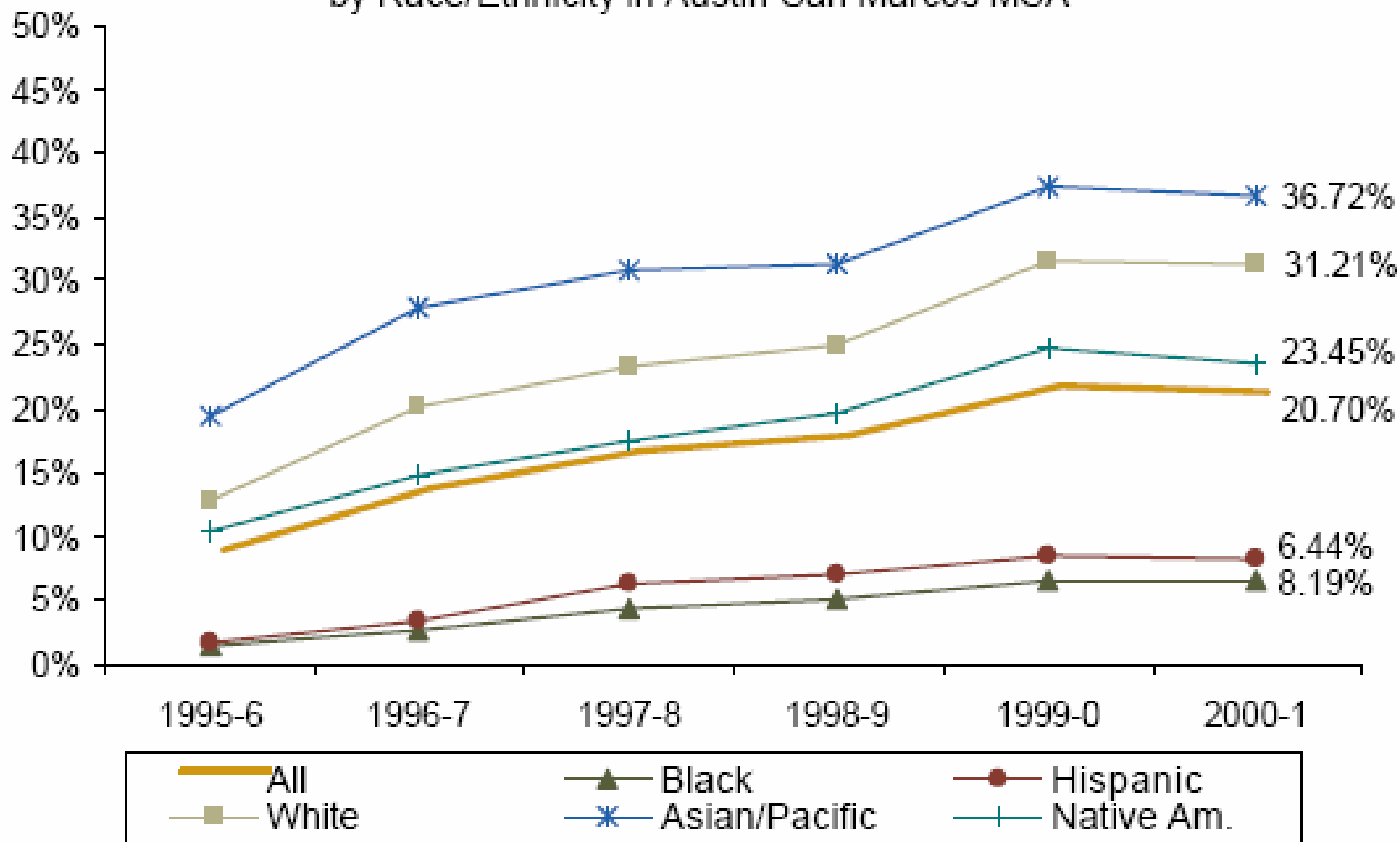
SOCIAL EQUITY INDICATORS

Education

- Current State
 - *Three times as many White and Asian students attend Exemplary schools as African-American and Hispanic students.*
- Ideal State
 - All Central Texans have equal access to justice, education, and economic advancement without regard to race/ethnicity.



Percentage of Students Attending Exemplary Schools
by Race/Ethnicity in Austin-San Marcos MSA



Fall 2000 - Revision of Challenging Indicators

SIP is adopted by Austin Community College.

Several indicators in the first report had data problems preventing them from being high quality indicators; some were revised accordingly.

April 2001 - Second SIP Report Published

The second SIP Report was published and distributed.

Summer 2001 - First Evolution

Release of initial Census 2000 data provided a detailed picture of our changing region. The SIP area was expanded to include **Bastrop and Caldwell Counties**, bringing the SIP in line with the Austin-San Marcos MSA.

May 2002- Third SIP Report Published

Data collection, despite the larger area, was easier with the availability of Census 2000 data and the ever increasing amount of data publicly available online. The third SIP Report was published and distributed.

May 2003 - Fourth SIP Report Published



Lessons Learned?

- **EDUCATION IS CRITICAL**
- **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AT MULTIPLE LEVELS VIA MULTIPLE CHANNELS IS CRITICAL**
- **AGREE ON VISION AND OBJECTIVES – EARLY TO KEEP FOCUSED**
- **MAKE TIME COMMITMENTS AND STICK TO THEM**
- **KEEP STAKEHOLDER PROCESS OPEN AND EVOLVING**
- **KEEP DECISION MAKERS IN THE LOOP**
- **THINK ABOUT FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY EARLY**
- **BE READY TO RE_VISION AS NEEDED**
- **DON'T GET HUNG UP ON FRAMES**
- **-- PRINCIPLES CAN BE EMBEDDED IN PROCESS AND PRODUCT**
- **ACTION v. REPORTING**



What impacts can be associated with the effort?

Though the report doesn't offer any solutions, its release should kick start discussions about mass transit, the lack of low and moderately priced housing near jobs, and scarcity of parks in Communities with lots of children and teenagers. The report's benefit to Central Texas will only be realized if we acknowledge that our communities are connected and that the best solutions are those that Focus regionally.

Austin American Statesman
Editorial June 23, 2002



IMPACTS ARE SUBTLE &
GRADUAL.....

POLITICAL
INTELLECTUAL
AND
SOCIAL CAPITAL



NEXT STEPS...

- **RE_VISION AND OFFER CHOICES**
 - NEW PLAYERS – NEW ENERGY
- **FEEDBACK LOOP FOR ENVISION
CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL PLAN**
- **INSTITUTIONAL FUTURE**
 - 501 3(C)
 - UT CSD Memorandum of Understanding
 - COG
 - Endowment development





ENVISION CENTRAL TEXAS™

YOUR IDEAS ★ OUR REGION'S FUTURE



Scenario Approach

Today's **Choices** Affect
Our **Future**



Develop a Range of Scenarios

A



B



C

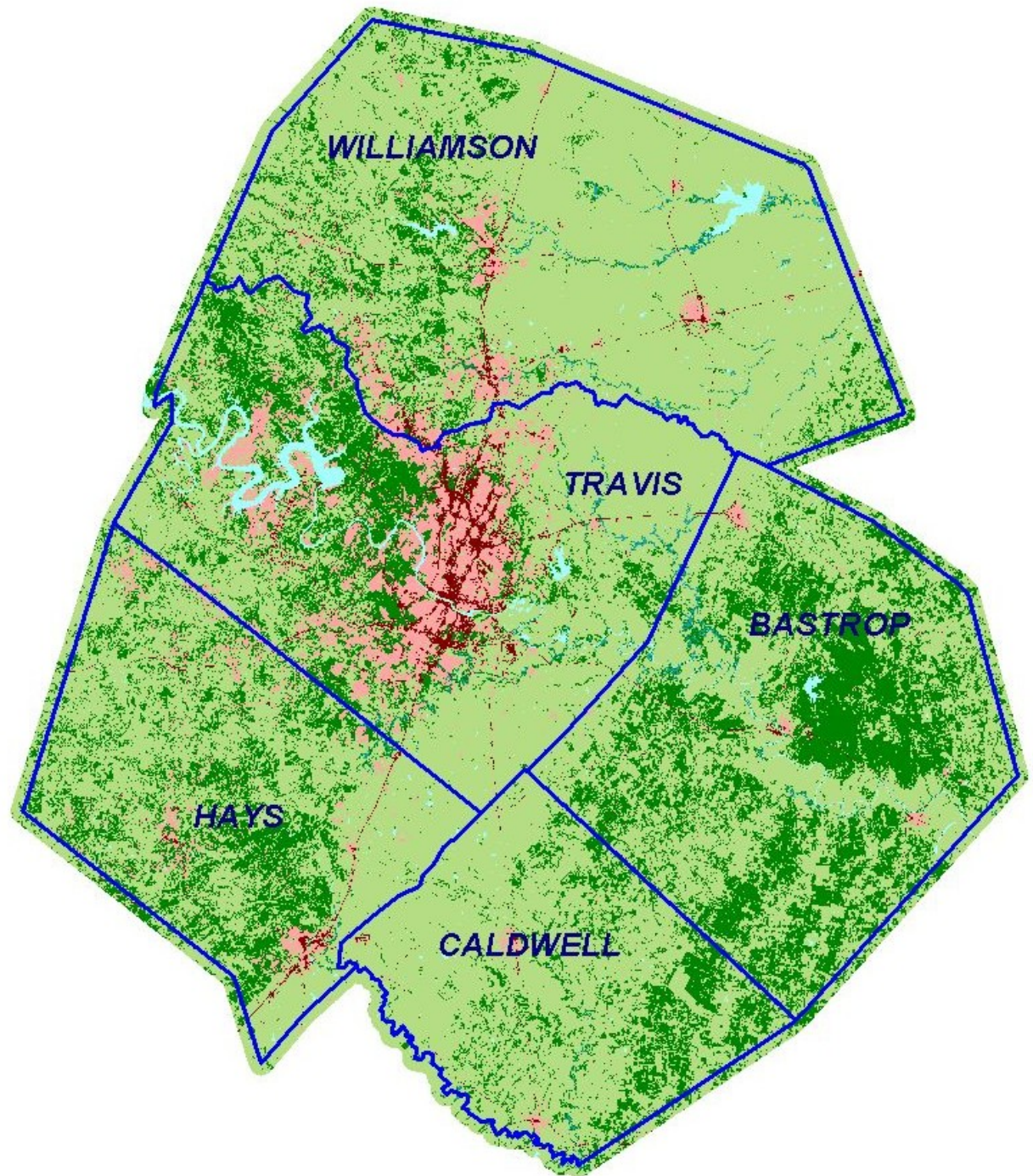


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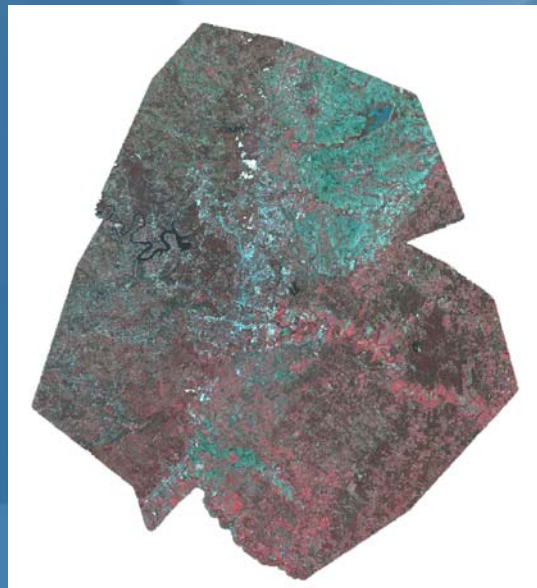


A Vision for Central Texas

The answers of
tomorrow will be
determined by
the choices of
today.



What will Central Texas look like from the air?



What will Central Texas look like from the ground?



What will daily life be like?



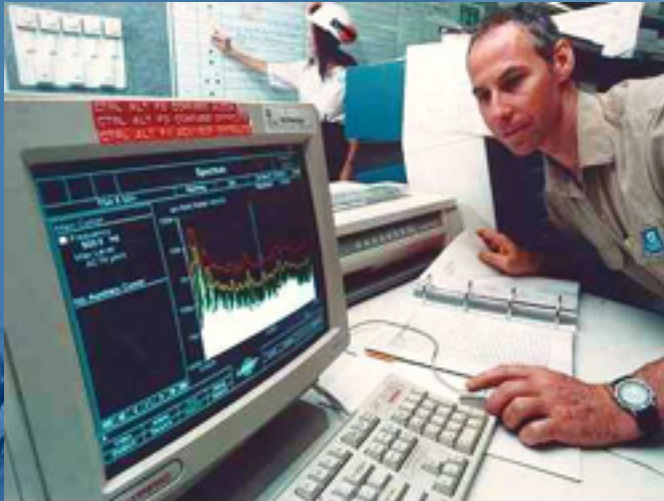
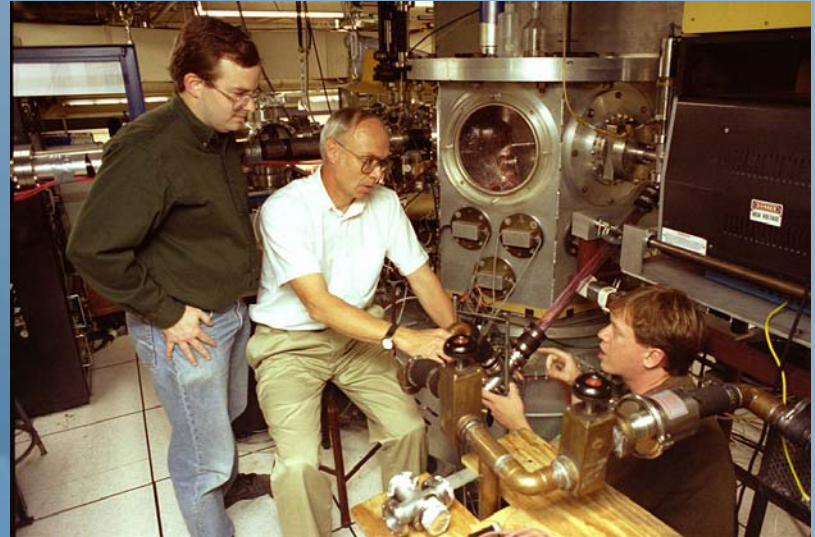
The Outstanding Features of the Central Texas region

- An effective **transportation** system
- An **environment** that is beloved and protected
- An **economy** that is dynamic and diverse
- A variety of **housing** choices
- Actions that demonstrate an understanding that **social equity** and **racial harmony** are **important values**
- The **protection and enhancement** of our neighborhoods, towns, rural areas, historic sites
- Region-wide understanding and the spirit that **our fortunes are tied together**

TRANSPORTATION



ECONOMY



HOUSING



ENVIRONMENT



SOCIAL EQUITY



Listening to the People

ECT has provided five primary opportunities for public input and guidance:

- **Two focus group** (May 2002)
- **Telephone survey** of 750 respondents (July 2002)
- **Seven planning workshops** 1,200 individuals participated (September/October 2002)
- **Six Community Test Site Workshops** (March/April 2003)
- **Public feedback survey** (Fall 2003) over 5000 responses



Public Workshops



McNeil Crossing

Bastrop



The Regional Vision Survey



What if a Million More People Lived in Central Texas?

Help Us Prepare. Answer the Survey Inside.



Fifteen Minutes Can Help Shape Your Future.

You can complete the Regional Vision Survey on pages 7 and 8 in just a few minutes, and your feedback about possible growth scenarios and other related issues can help create a meaningful vision for Central Texas' future. Considering our population may double within the next 20 to 40 years, Central Texans must make some tough decisions to ensure that future growth occurs sensibly. Critical issues, such as how and where land is developed for housing and jobs, the types of homes we live in, how we travel around the region and how we treat our environment, are all connected. Each decision can affect many different aspects of our region's future.



Please take a few minutes to review the material in this packet and mail your survey responses by October 26, or complete the survey online at www.envisioncentraltexas.org.

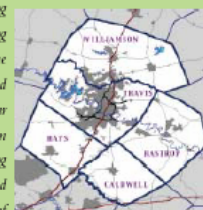
This is your chance to provide input about growth in our region. Don't let the future take shape without you.

Learn More About the Four Growth Scenarios

- Watch one of these special broadcasts about Envision Central Texas:
 - **KLRU** • Austin Now on KLRU-TV 9 at noon and 9 p.m., Oct. 10 and 5 p.m., Oct. 12 and on KLRU-TOO at 8 p.m., Oct. 16
 - News 8 Town Hall Meeting on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. and Oct. 16 at noon.
- Visit www.envisioncentraltexas.org or call us at (512) 916-6037 to schedule a speaker for your group.

What Is Envision Central Texas?

Envision Central Texas is a nonprofit organization composed of concerned citizens from Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties. The Board of Directors represents the business community, environmentalists, social equity organizations, neighborhoods and policy makers, and shares the common goal of addressing growth by considering the interests of the region's existing and future citizens. Our values are based on a set of guiding principles established by the Board of



Directors that are available on our Web site at www.envisioncentraltexas.org/resources.php. The organization has no regulatory powers and does not seek to impose a plan on the region or its local governments. Instead, Envision Central Texas' mission is to work in cooperative partnership with all entities and individuals to help guide the region toward a common vision.

Complete the Regional Vision Survey on pages 7 and 8 or participate online at www.envisioncentraltexas.org.

1

What the People Said

- **Call for change in how growth is managed**
- **More choices**
- **Continued involvement**



Envision Central Texas AND SIP



Visit the ECT website www.envisioncentraltexas.org

INDICATORS

- Indicators compare the variety of consequences associated with each Scenario's development patterns.
- They illustrate the trade-offs Central Texans must make in choosing the direction of future growth in their region.
- Provide a means to track progress toward a preferred future

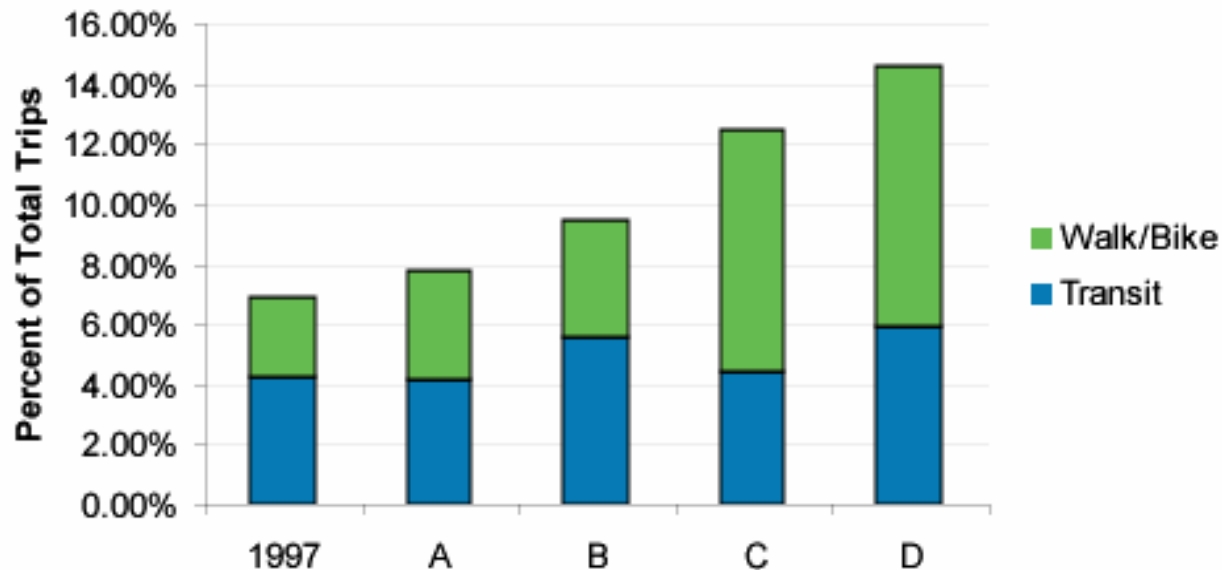


TRANSPORTATION

Travel Mode Share

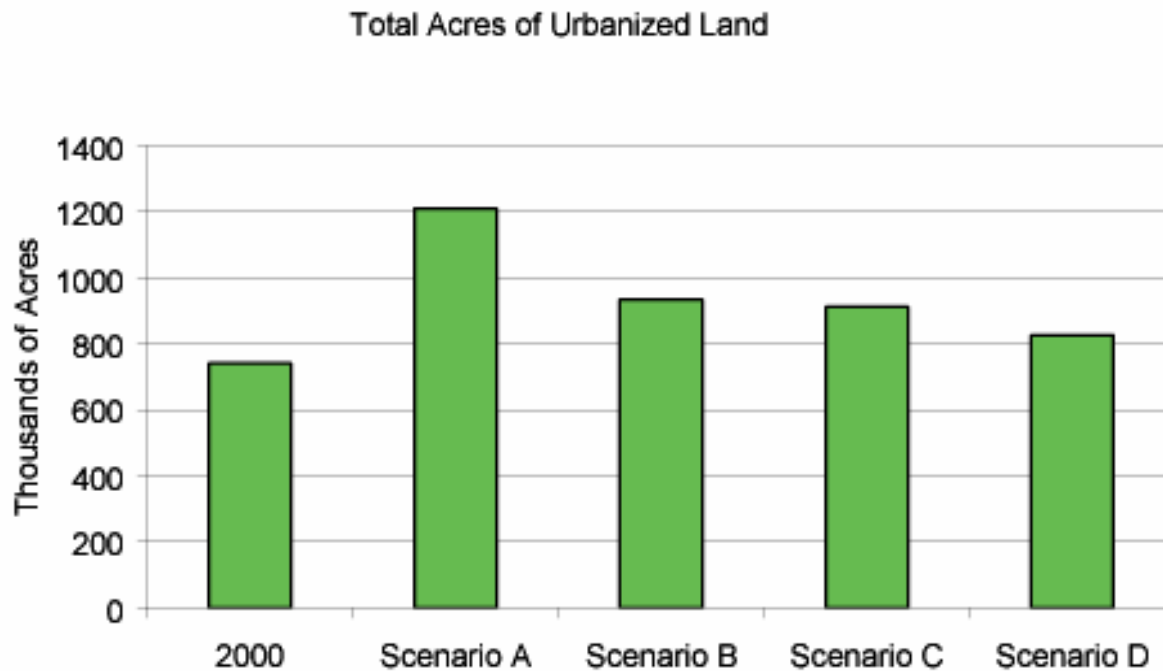
		Mode Share				
		1997	A	B	C	D
Region	Transit	4.28%	4.14%	5.58%	4.43%	5.89%
	Walk/Bike	2.65%	3.68%	3.85%	8.02%	8.69%
Austin Urbanized Area	Transit	4.88%	6.58%	8.65%	6.43%	8.87%
	Walk/Bike	3.16%	5.46%	4.78%	9.65%	9.77%

Non-Auto Mode Share



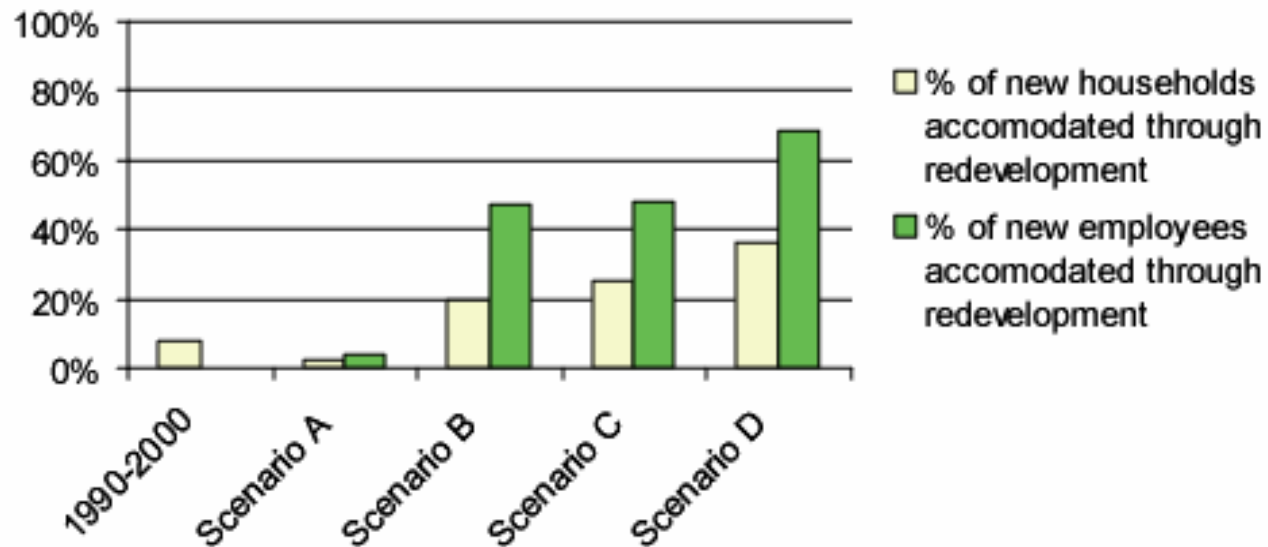
LAND USE

Indicator	Total Urbanized Acres	Incremental Acres
2000	740,563	-
Scenario A	1,208,841	468,278
Scenario B	932,982	192,418
Scenario C	911,340	170,777
Scenario D	825,346	84,783



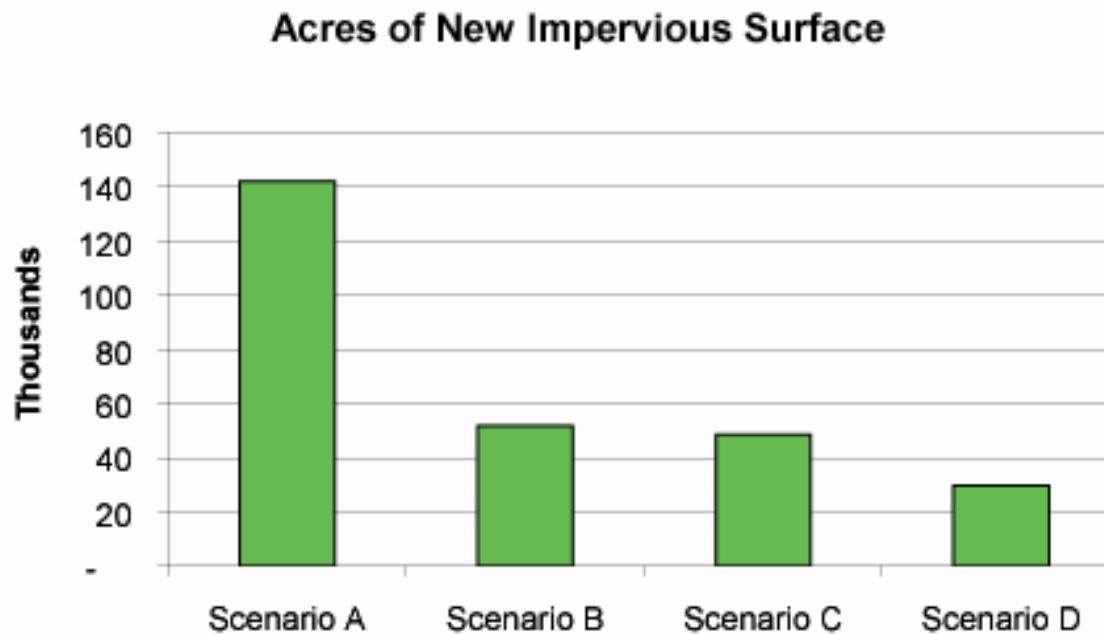
LAND USE

Percent of new Growth accommodated through
Redevelopment



ENVIRONMENT

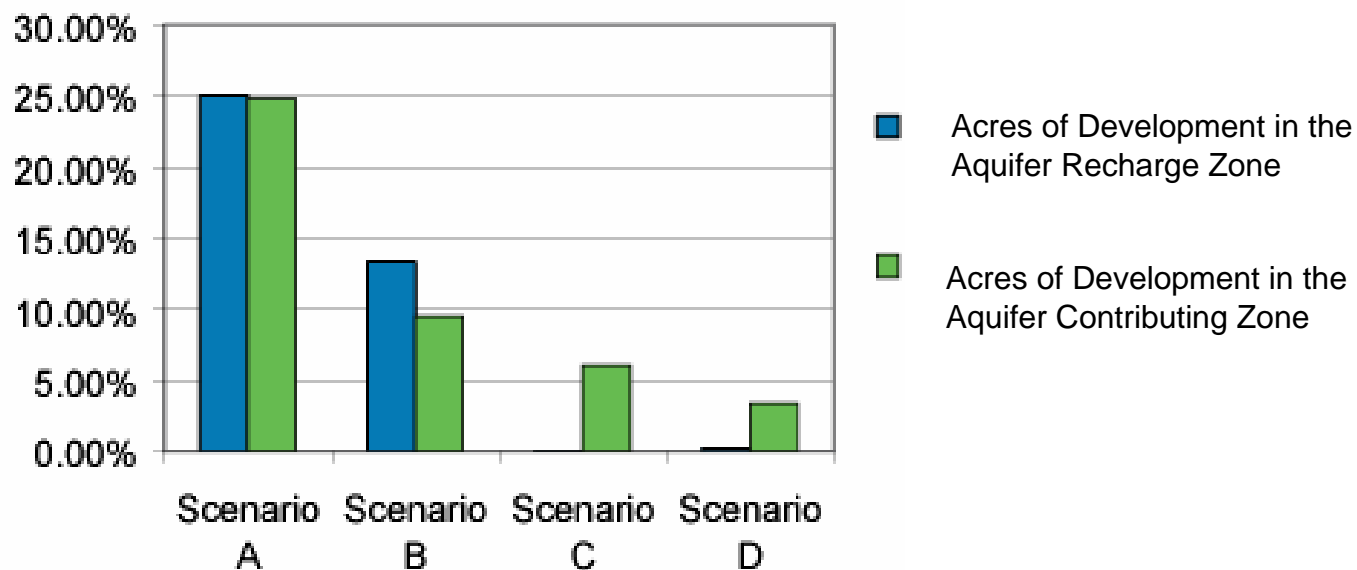
Acres of new impervious surface	
Scenario A	141,986
Scenario B	51,733
Scenario C	48,549
Scenario D	29,591



ENVIRONMENT

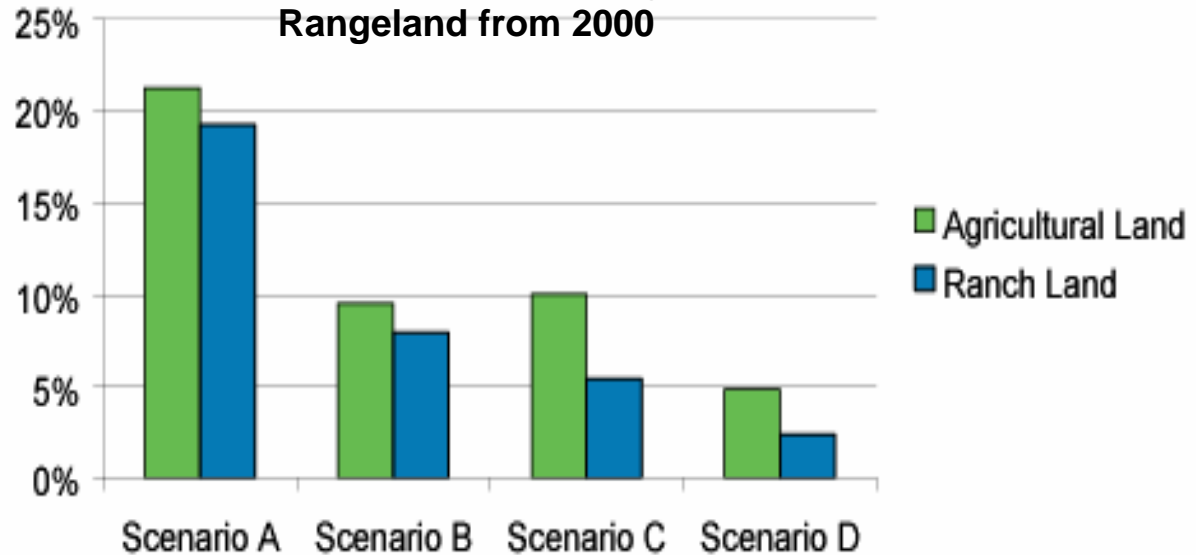
	Development in the Aquifer Recharge Zone	% Loss from 2000 Totals	development in the Contributing Zones	% Loss from 2000 Totals
Scenario A	36,258	25.03%	126,261	24.82%
Scenario B	19,300	13.32%	48,412	9.52%
Scenario C	53	0.04%	30,951	6.08%
Scenario D	397	0.27%	17,326	3.41%

Acres of Development in the Aquifer Recharge and Contributing Zones



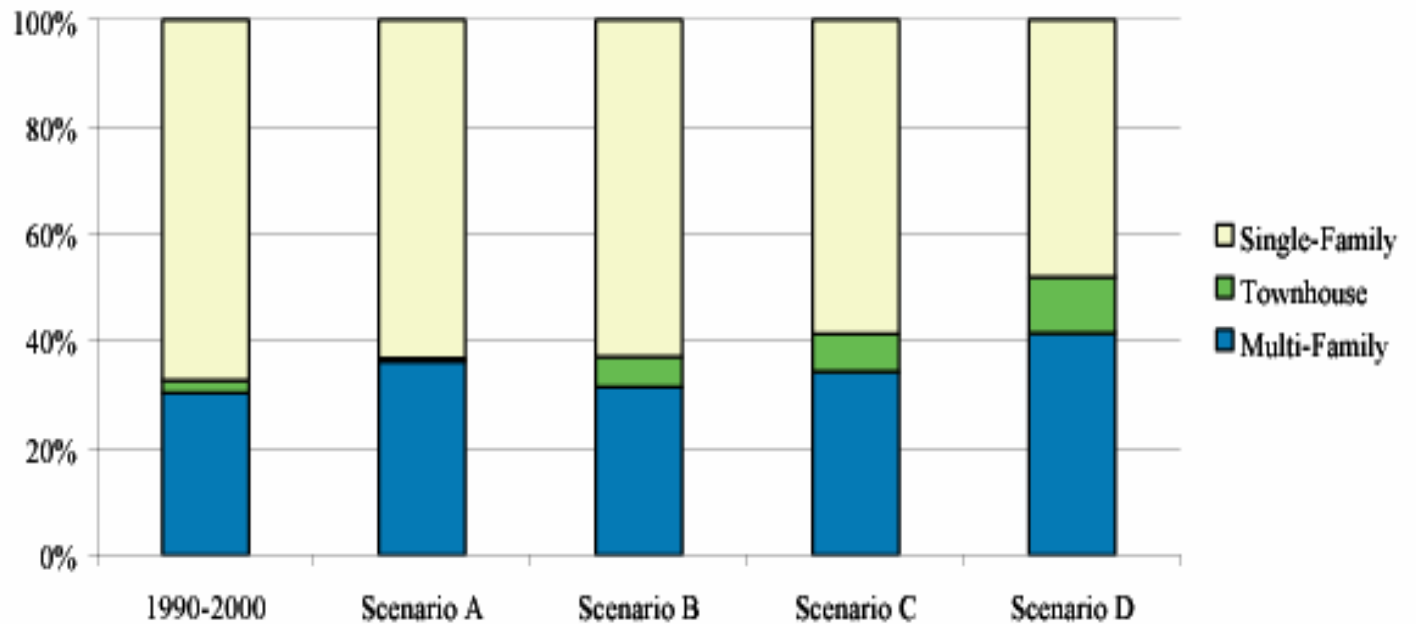
ENVIRONMENT

Percent of New Development on Agricultural and Rangeland from 2000



HOUSING

Incremental Housing Mix



Conclusions

- Regional Sustainability Indicators can be an important capacity building process
- May need to mature into an action oriented effort
- Needs diligent champions
- Needs institutional capacity
- Needs to consider nesting
- Can be supportive of the WEAK E

